

BEAR FACTS

Planning Trends and Information from California State Parks

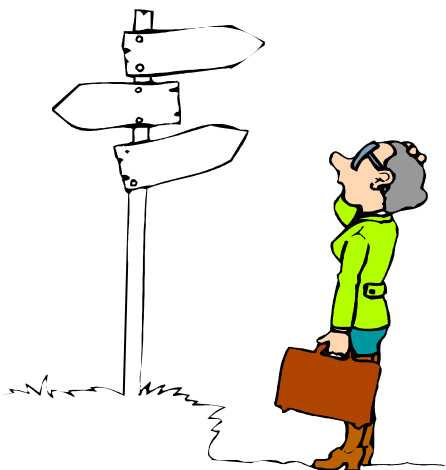
February 2003

Eastshore: A Lesson in Urban Park Planning

Decades of effort by Bay Area citizens and environmental organizations were rewarded on December 6th when the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted to officially establish 8.5 miles along the eastern shoreline of San Francisco Bay as Eastshore State Park.

The five members of the Commission who were present voted unanimously to classify the park as a State Seashore and to adopt the name Eastshore State Park. The formal classification of this newest unit of the State Park System actually involves three separate units: 1,667 acres will be Eastshore State Park, which is joined by the 190-acre Albany Marine Reserve and the 405-acre Emeryville Crescent Marine Reserve. The establishment of the two marine reserves officially requires concurrence by the California Department of Fish and Game.

(continued on page 2)



School Superintendents Respond

Superintendents of school districts in California were surveyed in October of 2002 concerning parks and recreation facilities and programs. The purpose of this survey was to gain a better understanding of superintendents' opinions about parks and recreation facilities and programs and to reveal information about partnerships between schools and parks and recreation service providers. The response was impressive—out of 1,053 superintendents surveyed, 71% responded, representing 1,710 public schools and all 58 counties in California. The Planning Division of California State Parks designed this survey to match four earlier surveys conducted in 2002 of mayors, legislators, county supervisors, and county executives.

Superintendents were also asked if access is allowed to school grounds and facilities, such as play fields, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms for community recreation activities, programs, special events, and community meetings during non-school hours. Ninety four percent answered yes, they do allow access, 4% responded some, but not all, allow access, while only 2% said they do not allow access to facilities during non-school hours. Access to school facilities helps to satisfy the demand for recreational opportunities placed on cities, counties, and the State of California, and is therefore a great asset.

According to the survey, school superintendents perceived that students and their families place

(continued on page 3)

Of no less significance was the Commission's vote to approve the preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Eastshore. The General Plan will provide essential guidance in developing Eastshore State Park into the "recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting" promised by legislation ten years ago.

While the Commission vote was unanimous, the path that preceded the vote was long and rather arduous. The Eastshore Project Team, coordinated for State Parks by staff Landscape Architect Robin Ettinger, included participants from the California State Coastal Conservancy, the East Bay Regional Park District, and six consulting firms. Team members agreed that Eastshore may have been the most complex and demanding park planning project ever undertaken by California State Parks. And, as the first of a new generation of "urban" state parks, the complexities of Eastshore very likely provided an example of what to expect for park planners involved in these types of projects.

Though the intense planning and public input process began in January of 2001, debate over the Eastshore area's use has persisted since the mid-nineteenth century, when large-scale filling of the Bay first began. Outspoken citizen activist groups have been around since the early 1960s, and as neighbor to the second-largest metropolitan population in California there was bound to be plenty of public interest in the project. The many influences on Eastshore can be illustrated by the fact that the park's boundary includes property in **five** cities: Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, and Richmond.

The Eastshore Project Team identified 16 separate stakeholder groups, each with a passionate interest in the future of the project. The team conducted over 20 public meetings to gain input and nurture consensus among the various groups. Team members agree that their efforts were successful, though State Parks' Bay Area District Superintendent Ron Schafer pointed out that "To make everyone happy we'd need a park 10 times this size."

Much debate took place over the unit's classifica-

tion. Environmental groups desired a "state park" classification, while recreational users campaigned for the classification "state recreation area." In addition, stakeholder concerns revealed during the planning process included; off-leash dog use, access for human-powered boats (the exclusion of powered boats was never really in question), parking lots, sports fields, and "public" art.

While none of these uses or concerns are new, it's not often that there's organized support for so many diverse uses in one relatively small park unit. This is the milieu of the "urban" state park, and it provides new challenges for planners and decision-makers at California State Parks.

While the Eastshore Project Team was successful in reaching acceptable compromises in each of these areas, other-as yet unknown-issues will no doubt arise as California State Parks further establishes an urban presence. Harmonizing State Parks' statutory obligations with the needs of urban park users will require lots of input, and some good old-fashioned brow scratching-it's a balancing act that will probably never end. It's not easy to know what to do, but the question of State Parks' role in highly populated urban areas is one that will become better defined with each new urban project.

As outgoing State Park and Recreation Commission Chair Joseph Cotchett stated at the conclusion of what most agreed was a very successful public meeting for Eastshore, "Consensus isn't about everyone getting their way-it's about compromise." Something to keep in mind as we move toward a greater state park presence in highly populated urban areas, and something to celebrate at Eastshore State Park. 🐻





(School Superintendents Respond, continued)


the highest value on the statement that local parks and recreation facilities and programs “provide safe, wholesome and fun programs and facilities for family activities.” They also gave a high score to parks and recreation for “providing the opportunity for team sports and youth activities.” Their opinion showed a high value for the statement that “recreation areas and facilities improve the quality of life in my city.”

The survey also showed that school superintendents were, on average, neutral about whether there are enough public park and recreation areas and facilities available for convenient use within their school district. However, of the 122 superintendents who took the time to write a comment – 47 stated that there were **no** park facilities or programs serving their community. A majority of all 122 comments came from rural communities, with superintendents expressing the need for more parks and recreation facilities.

A sample of comments on other subjects:

~ “I value the relationship I have with our recreation department. We are both underfunded and depend on each other to offer the programs needed for our youth”.

~ “Parks are a tremendous community asset. They are even more important during periods of local, state, and federal fiscal crisis.”

~ “(Our) local park unfortunately is used by undesirables to congregate. Especially youth who are dropouts, jobless, drug dealers. Otherwise it’s all good, especially joint use facilities with community service district and school district”. 

Which Parks and Why?


Naming a State Park after an individual bestows a lasting legacy. But although the name endures, do you know who these people were and why a State Park was named for them?

1. D.L. Bliss (SP)
2. Samuel P. Taylor (SP)
3. Arthur B. Ripley (Desert Woodland SP)
4. William B. Ide (Adobe SHP)
5. Burleigh H. Murray (Ranch, a major unclassified property)

Answers on Page 5

California Trail Days 2003

The 18th Annual California Trail Days will be observed April 12 - 13, 2003. This is a great opportunity to have a fun trail work day or community hike/ride, building support for your trail programs and projects. The California Trails Foundation and the Statewide Trails Office will mail Trail Days brochures to Park and Recreation providers and trail advocacy groups. The brochures will include forms to request Event Information Packets. These packets include tips on planning a successful event, event reporting forms, and commemorative patch order forms. Copies of the Governor’s annual Trail Days Proclamation will be available as well. Please contact the Statewide Trails Office at (916) 651-6915 for more information.

June 7 is the date for National Trails Day 2003. The American Hiking Society sponsors this observance as a way to celebrate and encourage trails of all kinds. If your trails are too wet or snowy in early April, this is a great alternative weekend for community trail activities. For more information, see www.americanhiking.org. 

Seeking New Linkages

A well-known cliché states that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Tourism professionals adore this concept, which means to them that if you highlight enough modest attractions in an area, and link them attractively together, visitors initially only planning to see a few will then want to see more or most of them. This encourages visitors to stay in an area longer than they had otherwise planned and possibly purchase an extra meal, souvenir or motel room. This can obviously increase the visitor’s impact on and value to the local economy.


Park, recreation and resource management professionals can be using this “linkages” concept to develop value-adding connections between distinct recreation and resource opportunities that may have a low individual value but increase in value when accessed and interpreted collectively.

For a more concrete example of linkage-values, consider our park and natural areas from a species preservation perspective. For years, conservation biologists have warned that as parklands become isolated islands of nature in a sea of human disturbance, they will be reduced to merely attractive scenic backdrops for outdoor recreation activities, devoid of the diverse types of plants and animals we value and enjoy. The tremendous ecological downside of such habitat fragmentation threatens the survival of the very native plant and animal species we are charged with protecting. Landscape fragmentation blocks the natural migration of both plant and animal species and prevents the beneficial mixing of genetic materials. Without an adequate land base, expanded through linkages, mammals have difficulty finding food or a mate; shy birds will not cross roadways, and smaller plant populations lose the genetic diversity to survive environmental stress and change. Physical linkages between parklands and open spaces can reduce the impacts of human encroachment while enhancing the conservation of our most precious natural resources.

Consider also our desire to preserve and interpret our historic and cultural park areas. Physical and interpretive linkages between historical and cultural attractions allow visitors to put a single historic site,

exhibit or artifact into a bigger, more meaningful framework. Highlighting these linkages also helps direct acquisition of property and materials towards enhancing and expanding the interpretation of those sites and historic themes already accessible and enjoyed by the public. The big picture of California gold mining becomes much more accessible and meaningful to the visitor if examples of all the various gold extraction techniques (placer mining, hydraulic mining, hard rock mining) are available and interpreted in public parks. The history of early efforts at California government become more interesting and understandable if all four former state capitol sites are identified, accessible and meaningfully linked through interpretive exhibits and materials.

These value-adding linkages can also apply to outdoor recreation facilities and activities. Think of the new State Parks’ “urban initiative,” proposing a series of conceptually and interpretively—if not physically—linked parks, ranging from those highly developed and urbanized to those that are substantially more natural or historic. This linkage will provide inner-city residents an accessible and meaningful transition from urbanized city parks to the more cultural and natural appeal of rural, historic and wildland parks, attractions that initially now may not interest or even frighten city dwellers. Think of crafting general plans highlighting a number of geographically related parks, where camping is available in only some of the units, yet designed to serve visitors to them all. Think of a system of trails, serving more people and serving them better when the pathways themselves provide linkages, purposefully connecting people and attractions from one area to another. Trail linkages add value through connecting human activity areas, by linking residential areas, school grounds, shopping centers, major work sites, and recreation areas to make them more accessible and adding value for a larger group of people.

Thinking in terms of linkages and connections can add value to many types of existing resources. Let us seek out and develop such linkages in our policy formulation, planning work and activity or facility programming to increase the value and appreciation of our existing resources. 

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News on Multi-Racial Ethnicity


California takes center stage when it comes to a new category of ethnicity not previously included in the census. As of 2000, “multi-racial”—meaning people who identify with two or more races—was offered as an census category. Facts continue to emerge from the analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. According to *American Demographics*, the largest share of multi-racials in the continental United States are in California and Oklahoma. Alaska and Hawaii have the largest percentages (5.4% to 21.4%) in the U.S. overall.

The most common multiracial identity includes the nation’s largest race group – whites. More than half of all multi-racials identify with “white” along with another race. Young people are increasingly multi-racial – a manifestation of the concept of the United States as a “melting pot.” The largest percentage (39.7%) of multi-racials are aged 5-24 years old. Of those under 5 years old, 13.9% are multi-racial.

Multi-racials cluster in large metropolitan areas, in states with a large, diverse population. California dominates the list of top multiracial metropolitan areas, but ethnic centers like New York and Miami are also home to larger than average multiracial populations.

Ten of the top 12 metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of multiracials are in California.

Metro	Multiracial Percentage
1. Oakland, CA	5.4%
2. Sacramento-Yolo, CA	5.2%
3. Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	4.9%
4. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	4.9%
5. L. A.-Riverside-Orange County, CA	4.7%
6. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA	4.7%
7. San Diego, CA	4.7%
8. San Jose, CA	4.7%
9. New York, NY	4.6%
10. San Francisco, CA	4.5%
11. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	4.2%
12. Orange County, CA	4.1%

While the diversity of California’s population and urban centers is nothing new, the analysis of multi-racial ethnicity offers a new twist on a common theme. In terms of planning for parks and recreation, this data helps illustrate the need to create programs and opportunities that are relevant to California’s rapidly-growing and increasingly diverse population. 

Source: American Demographics analysis of Census 2000 data, U.S. Census Bureau, November 2002.

Answers to the “Which Parks and Why” from page 3:

1. Duane Leroy Bliss a pioneering lumberman, railroad owner, and banker in the Lake Tahoe region. The Bliss family donated 744 acres to the State Park system in 1929.
2. Samuel Penfield Taylor came to California from Boston in 1849 to try his luck in the Gold Rush. He found gold and later went into the lumber business.
3. Arthur B. Ripley donated 566 acres of undeveloped property in the Antelope Valley, which later became a State Park.
4. William B. Ide was President of the short-lived California Bear Republic – which lasted just 22 days in 1846.
5. Burleigh H. Murray was born on the ranch that would later become today’s unclassified property bearing his name. His father came from Virginia to California in 1852, seeking gold. He settled the ranch in 1857, raising sheep and cattle, and beginning a successful dairy farm.

Technical Services Update

At one time the California Department of Parks and Recreation was actively engaged in providing technical assistance to park and recreation service providers. The Department partnered with the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (later to be absorbed into the National Park Service), the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and others in providing such assistance. Subjects such as marketing parks and recreation programs, grant writing and management, crime and vandalism, building constituencies, cost cutting strategies and a host of others were addressed in articles, guidebooks, case studies, conference sessions and workshops.

With so much that is occurring today and on the near horizon, and with a renewed interest in re-connecting with others in the park and recreation delivery system, the Department felt it was timely to re-establish its technical services efforts. Over the last year, the Department's Planning Division has consulted with a wide range of service providers in an attempt to learn what topics/subjects would be of greatest need/value to them. These topic areas are important for their relevancy to a rapidly changing profession and will be investigated by Planning staff in the near future. They are:

Grants (i.e., locating, preparing, researching, administering grant funds)

Funding (i.e., fees and charges, alternative funding, leveraging funding, funding shortfalls)

Building coalitions and partnering to increase resources and opportunities

Public advocacy building

Trends and their impacts on parks and recreation

Research (i.e., park standards, maintenance costs, increase in demand for services)

Legislative process

Media tips

Programming (i.e., aging population, environmental education, trends)

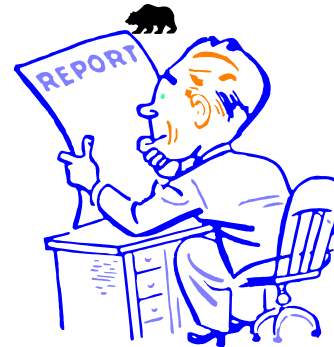
Management challenges (i.e., retaining staff, diversification, aging population, conflict management)

Natural resources (i.e., resource capacity, open

space management)


Other services (i.e., update of new laws, standardized bids, benchmark practices, etc.)

The recently released ***A Park and Recreation Professionals' Glossary*** and the four surveys resulting in the ***California Leaders' Opinions of Parks and Recreation*** are two examples of technical assistance documents provided by the Planning Division. As before, the Department will expand its work in partnership with others to address issues of interest and topical concern. If you have subject areas that you would like to see addressed, please contact Laura Westrup at lwestr@parks.ca.gov or visit www.parks.ca.gov for more information.



California Trails and Greenways Conference News

Over 225 trails professionals and volunteers attended the 19th Annual California Trails & Greenways conference in Tahoe City on Sept. 6 – 8, 2002, filling the conference to capacity. There was a greater representation of local jurisdiction attendees from cities and counties throughout the state than in recent years. California State Parks' Statewide Trails Office hosts and coordinates the conference. The learning sessions included presentations on pedestrian enhancement projects, CEQA/NEPA, regional planning, funding, acquisitions, master plans, volunteers, classroom programs, and water trails.

The next Trails and Greenways Conference is tentatively planned for March 25–28, **2004** in the Folsom area. This date was chosen to return the conference to its traditional springtime cycle. Please contact the Statewide Trails Office at (916) 651-6915 for more information. 

Slicing and Dicing California History

California's complex human history is the product of people who, through their individual knowledge, tools and social constructs, have acted and reacted to the environments around them. In a way, California history is the sum of countless human and natural events, stretching over more than ten thousand years. How can these vast, interlocking strands be collected, examined, illuminated, and meaningfully interpreted for the enjoyment and enlightenment of present and future generations?

In the past, "history" has been subdivided into certain, seemingly mutually exclusive, topic areas or chronological frameworks—political history, military history, the Spanish Period, the World War II Era, etc. While this simplification and focus may be suitable for in-depth academic study, it often lacks the cross-cultural and cross-temporal elements that would bring history alive for the general public. The draft State Park System Plan identified the need to represent California's rich history, while reaching out to its 85 million annual visitors with a new, more relevant and meaningful approach.

Recently a five-person task force chaired by department Historian/Interpreter Mary Helmich, proposed "slicing" California history from a different, more inclusive angle. Their proposed framework aggregates California history into six broad, core concepts:


- California People
- People and the Environment
- Developing Economies
- Governing California
- Social and Community Life
- Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

Each of these concepts is further defined or "diced" into a number of subordinate ideas. "Governing California," for instance, is represented through the following sub-concepts:

- Control and Defense
- Law and Civic Order
- Government Institutions
- Politics and Political Processes.

This way of looking at our history should enable department staff to put a more human face on history, while creating interpretive materials and programs that are more meaningful for the non-


specialist interests of the visiting public. Additionally, the concepts should help program planners and analysts understand how well or completely the State Park System has "covered" California history. This, in turn, may show weaknesses or gaps that need to be filled through the acquisition of new sites or artifacts or the creation of new or revision of existing programs and facilities.

The conceptual framework for California history, this new angle of examination, is being reviewed by a range of interested individuals and organizations to ensure it is comprehensive. It is hoped that many of those in the field outside of California State Parks will join the department in using this new approach to understanding our past. 

Trails Important to Home Buyers

The National Association of HomeBuilders (NAHB) and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) have been looking into why and how people decide on where they will purchase a home. A national sample of 2,000 households were surveyed in January 2002. When asked about the "importance of community amenities" trails ranked second only to highway access.

Gary Garczynski, president of the NAHB said, "A majority of consumers want single-family detached homes in a pedestrian-friendly community that has shopping within walking distance. They want a mix of open space, including parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, farms, nature preserves and undeveloped areas." Findings showed that builders, developers, planners, elected officials must create high quality, walkable, mixed-use communities, for smart growth to be more accepted in the marketplace.

As California grows and develops, especially the urban and suburban areas, developers must look into these same values. The idea that trails and open spaces are important for the property value in the residents' minds can have a great effect on how housing projects, both new and old, are to be instituted. 

www.nahb.com/news/smartsurvey2002.htm

Bear Facts

is published in June, October, and February of each year by the Planning Division of California State Parks

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Searching for a Word?

A glossary of terms can come in handy during these times of new technology and changing terminology. It can also be helpful to new park and recreation professionals seeking an accurate definition of commonly used terms and acronyms. With these thoughts in mind, the Planning Division of California State Parks has produced ***A Park and Recreation Professional's Glossary: Words, Phrases and Acronyms for Park and Recreation Professionals***.

This publication is the second in a series of informational technical assistance documents that will be produced by California State Parks. These documents—published in a series titled **Concepts: Practical Tools for Parks and Recreation**—are part of a continuing program associated with the California Outdoor Recreation Plan.

A Park and Recreation Professionals' Glossary is 92 pages, with terms related to environmental review, park planning, bicycling, transportation, sports, funding and much more. To obtain a copy, contact Laurie Taylor at (916) 653-9901, FAX (916) 653-4458, or ltayl@parks.ca.gov. The publication is also available online at www.parks.ca.gov. If you have any comments or suggestions on the Glossary, please address them to Laura Westrup at (916) 653-8691 or lwestr@parks.ca.gov.

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